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Susan L. Eick

DEC 0 1 2003

Signature November 21, 2003

Date of Signature

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Sethi et al.

Examiner: Louise N. Leary

Serial No.: 09/780,503

Art Unit: 1654

Filed: February 9, 2001

For:

A Method for Detecting Bacterial Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the Office Action dated August 21, 2003, Applicants respond as follows.

Amendments to the claims are presented on page 2 of this response.

Remarks are presented on page 5 of this response.